

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2c
April 5, 2012

Work Session

RIDE
Thursday, March 15, 2012
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: George Caruolo, Chairman, Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Robert Carothers, Patrick Guida, Karin Forbes, Mat Santos

Absent: Colleen Callahan, Betsy Shimberg

The meeting convened at 11:40 a.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone, acknowledged that the meeting was a Work Session of the Board of Regents duly noticed, and asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Regent Guida, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0.

Commissioner's Report

Howard Fuller – Director of the Institute for Learning, at Marquette University

Commissioner Gist thanked Regents Guida and Santos, who along with Rhode Island leaders and educators, attended a conversation with Dr. Howard Fuller, the director of the Institute for Learning, at Marquette University, and the Co-founder of the Black Alliance for Educational Options. Dr. Fuller spent a couple of days in R.I. leading a conversation on the educational challenges facing students of color and other traditionally underserved students.

His conversations focused on the process of education reform, the charter-school movement, the responsibility of educators within that movement, and what can be accomplished.

House Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) Committee

Commissioner Gist updated the BOR on her testimony before the House HEW Committee in opposition to legislation that would prevent RIDE's ability to use standardized tests as one of the requirements for graduating from high school.

She shared how the success of our students and the long-term economic viability of our state both depend on how well we prepare our graduates for college, careers, and life, and how she believes that it is inappropriate to allow students to leave high school without the knowledge and skills they will need for success. She went on to say that she is confident that students who are truly prepared will have no trouble demonstrating that they have met all of our graduation requirements through the multiple measures and multiple opportunities of our Diploma System.

House Subcommittee on RIDE's budget and RTTT

Commissioner Gist next updated the BOR on the testimony she would be providing that afternoon before the House Finance Committee on RIDE's budget, on fully funding the funding formula, and on the technology bond and the implementation of RTTT grants.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

Discussion Items

The Learning Community Public Charter School - Request for Enrollment Increase

Commissioner Gist presented The Learning Community Public Charter School's request to expand its enrollment by 18 students to fill out a gap in its grade configurations, which are due to a quirk to its original charter approval in 2004: initial funding covered only 100 students total in grades K and 1, rather than 120.

This growth will require a technical amendment to its charter, and, if approved, the Learning Community will fill the additional 16 seats through this year's lottery.

RIDE staff examined the school's overall performance in relation to the state and sending districts, performance by demographic subgroups, and performance compared

with demographically similar schools, and the RIDE analysis indicates that The Learning Community is a high-performing school.

There was discussion around attrition in charter public schools, students leaving for extended periods of time during the school year, and an analysis of mobility and its impact on achievement within schools and districts. It was suggested scheduling time for a more in-depth discussion on these issues at a future Board meeting.

Board of Regents Regulation - Title A - Final Review

Clark Greene, RIDE Chief of Staff, went over the revised Board of Regents Regulations - Title A, which, as required by the Administrative Procedures Act, was posted for public-comment for a period of 30 days. The public-comment period generated one concern, and it was addressed in the final revision.

Certification Redesign - Testing Requirements

Commissioner Gist reminded the Regents that, at their March 1, 2012, meeting, RIDE provided them with information regarding the process used to select and subsequently recommend a suite of certification tests to support the implementation of Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island that were approved by the Regents in November 2011.

This process included seeking feedback from the educational community to identify those tests that will meet the needs of educators, preparation programs, and RIDE's expectations.

RIDE looks forward to additional feedback from the public-comment process that may further inform these recommendations.

As required by the new certification regulations, RIDE will study and analyze all required certification tests and passing scores that the Regents adopt and bring recommendations for any changes that may be required based on the implementation of these regulations.

Lisa Foehr, Director of the Office of Educator Quality and Certification, walked the BOR through the enclosures and answered questions on the different types of validation studies and how they were determined and on the internal policy process used by RIDE to make determinations around certification tests and cut scores.

Virtual Learning - Design Principles

Commissioner Gist introduced the last item on the agenda, Virtual Learning, and shared how, since 2009, when the plan for transforming education in Rhode Island was put into place, she has been enthusiastic about the opportunities that are presented and can be provided to students and teachers through the use of technology as a tool for learning. RIDE is in the beginning stages of developing Virtual Learning Regulations, which will be promulgated by the BOR in the next few months.

This brand-new set of regulations will be an important part of RIDE's ability to ensure that virtual learning, digital learning, and blended learning in Rhode Island are of high quality, promote flexibility, and broaden educational opportunities for all students.

Sharon Lee and Holly Walsh went over the principles suggested to develop a comprehensive policy framework for virtual learning that are supported by national and international research and best practices.

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes it was

VOTED:	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.
	Vote:	7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos
	NAYS:	0.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.